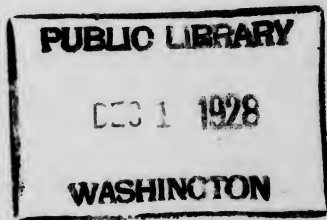


**17th Annual Report of the
Department of Playgrounds
District of Columbia
1928**





SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
DEPARTMENT *of* PLAYGROUNDS
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1928

MRS. SUSIE ROOT RHODES - - - - Supervisor



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SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PLAYGROUNDS, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WASHINGTON, D. C., *August 15, 1928.*

To the COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:

The supervisor of playgrounds submits herewith her thirteenth report, which is the seventeenth annual report of the department of playgrounds. This covers the period from July 1, 1927, to June 30, 1928.

Twenty-eight municipal playgrounds were in operation for the full 12 months, together with 1 play station and a recreation center at the Children's Hospital, all with supervision. Forty school grounds were open during the summer and 12 of these remained open daily after school, during the school term both fall and spring, so that the number of recreation centers open at any one time varied from 70 during the summer, 42 in the fall and spring, to 30 in January and February. The department also has had under its supervision the 4 concrete tennis courts on the cover of the Reno Reservoir in Tenleytown, the 3 municipal swimming pools on the Monument Lot, 3 playground swimming pools, and 5 wading pools.

The playground is the gathering place where children from different homes come together to have a common interest, where they learn that success depends on their ability to work with others. The aim of the department is to provide for the children and youth an opportunity for fun and for physical improvement. It encourages and promotes beneficial sports and games. Habits of justice, obedience, industry, loyalty, and cooperation are taught. Strict adherence to the rules of the games teach respect for law. Civic pride and regard for property rights are other valuable outgrowths of the public playgrounds. Recreation, aside from its pleasure purpose and its health-giving qualities, is an essential activity in the building of character.

In the schedule of different activities care is taken to adapt the events to the strength of those taking part. It is the policy of the department to employ only experienced instructors or those who have had training for the work.

During the past spring there was held a training class for recreation workers from the middle of March to the end of June, the usual program of games, sports, and handwork was given. Each member of the class was required to volunteer for a time on the playgrounds in addition to the regular course of instruction. From this class about 50 who showed an aptitude for the work were chosen on the teaching staff of the summer school playground. Others employed were regular physical training teachers and those who had done playground work either here or in other cities.

An intensive athletic program has been launched on every playground, for both boys and girls, and here one of the greatest uses of the trained playground worker is found.

The athletics of the public elementary schools of the District were played off on the municipal playgrounds as usual, where teams representing the school in track, baseball, and soccer for boys; basketball and schlag ball for girls, played for the division and city championship. The attendance, of course, was not obligatory but was fostered and encouraged by many school principals. These contests were organized and supervised by the playground director, and all balls, bats, and athletic goods were furnished by the municipal playground department.

The playground directors encourage extensive rather than intensive athletics, having found that highly specialized athletics destroy the play idea. They feel every boy and girl should have an equal chance in the general sports, and should play each game long enough to develop teamwork. The game is of the most interest when the rules have been learned by all and opportunity given each to acquire proficiency in the playing of it. In our system of competition we put as much emphasis on the conduct of the players as on the winning of the contest, thus in a way our play may be considered an individual matter, although the effort of the instructor is directed to the group rather than coaching to high efficiency the individual. Individual accomplishments are encouraged, especially through the athletic badge tests where the award is for progress and ability in self-mastery rather than mastery of opponents. The tests are offered to determine how nearly every boy and girl measures up to normal standard of strength and skill.

The singing games and folk dancing were excellent on many grounds. Story-telling is encouraged; some of the directors have remarkable success in this plan of interesting the children in fairy tales, myths, and legends of classic literature. Story-telling increases the attention and also the power of concentration. The retelling of the story by the child leads to the forming of a clearer mental image and to the use of good English.

An important phase of playground work has come to be the outdoor kindergarten classes held daily on each playground. Many of our little people come to be very skillful with their paper folding, drawing, clay modeling, and the many kinds of construction work taught. The finished piece of work often represents a story that has been told. Always the work is thought out with due regard to the season. The children love to make things and kindergarten hour is hailed with delight. The class usually opens with a song, finger play, or a suitable story.

Instruction is given during the summer in many kinds of handwork, as needlework, knitting, flower making, paper furniture, small garments, basketry of various sorts of reed, raphia, and splint. Each playground has an exhibit of these articles at the end of the summer and the mothers and neighborhood friends are invited to view the work.

Classes for girls in swimming and life-saving were held at regular hours at the playground pools under the direction of a woman instructor who is an accredited Red Cross examiner. At the end of

the season approximately 200 girls had been awarded the Red Cross beginner's button, 150 the swimmer's button, and nearly 50 had passed the life-saving tests. It is estimated that a total of nearly 1,500 have attended the classes during the season. Boys' classes were held daily under the supervision of the life guards, with an estimated attendance of 800.

At the municipal pools on the Monument Lot free swimming classes for children were held each day at 9.30 a. m. and continued each half hour until 3.30 p. m. There were 6,000 patronized these classes, with a total of more than 90,000 in attendance at the pools during the season.

The municipal playgrounds are open 10 hours per day during the summer months, from 9 a. m. until 7 p. m. The school grounds are open 8 hours in the summer, from 10 a. m. to 6 p. m., except during the term of the summer coaching school, when these grounds are open from 1 p. m. to 6 p. m. The daily schedule while school is in session is from 11.45 a. m. until dusk. On Saturdays and during the Easter and Christmas vacation the grounds are open from 9 a. m. to 4.30 p. m. The school grounds that are open daily after school during the school term, fall and spring, have supervision from 3 to 6 p. m.

LIST OF MUNICIPAL PLAYGROUNDS

WHITE

- Bloomingtondale.*—First and Bryant Streets NW.
Burroughs.—Eighteenth and Monroe Streets NE.
Chevy Chase.—Forty-first and Livingston Streets NW.
Columbia Heights.—Columbia Road NW., between Georgia and Sherman Avenues.
Gallinger.—F Street NW., between Twenty-first and Twenty-second Streets.
Garfield.—Second and F Streets SE.
Georgetown.—Thirty-third Street and Volta Place NW.
Happy Hollow.—Eighteenth Street and Kalorama Road NW.
Hoover.—Second Street and Delaware Avenue SW.
Iowa Avenue.—Iowa Avenue NW., between Varnum and Webster Streets.
Mitchell Park.—Twenty-third and S Streets NW.
Montrose Park.—Thirtieth and R Streets NW.
New York Avenue.—First Street and New York Avenue NW.
Park View.—Warder and Otis Streets NW.
Phillips.—Between Eighth, Ninth, Longfellow, and Madison Streets NW.
Plaza.—Second and E Streets NE.
Rosedale.—Seventeenth and Kramer Streets NE.
Takoma.—Fourth, Fifth, Van Buren, and Whittier Streets NW.
Thomson.—Twelfth and L Streets NW.
Twin Oaks.—Fourteenth and Taylor Streets NW.
Virginia Avenue.—Virginia Avenue SE., between Ninth and Eleventh Streets.

COLORED

- Barry Farms.*—Nichols Avenue. Anacostia. D. C.
Cardozo.—First and I Streets SW.
Howard.—Fifth and W Streets NW.
Logan.—Third and G Streets NE.
Payne.—Fifteenth and C Streets SE.
Rose Park.—Twenty-seventh and O Streets NW.
Willow Tree.—Third, Four-and-a-half, B, and C Streets SW.
Ida May Gales Memorial Play Station.—Children's Hospital.
Van Ness Play Station.—Third and M Streets SE.
Reno Tennis Courts.—Donaldson and Ellicott Streets NW.

SCHOOL YARDS OPEN DURING THE SUMMER, 1927

WHITE

Adams.—Seventeenth Street and New Hampshire Avenue NW.
Arthur.—First Street and Arthur Place NW.
Bennings.—Anacostia Road, between Bennings and Foote Streets NE.
Boicen.—Third and K Streets SW.
Brookland.—Tenth and Monroe Streets NE.
Buchanan.—Thirteenth and E Streets SE.
Cooke.—Seventeenth and Euclid Streets NW.
Corcoran.—Twenty-eighth and M Streets NW.
Congress Heights.—Congress Heights, D. C.
Dennison.—S Street NW., between Thirteenth and Fourteenth Streets.
Eaton.—Thirty-fourth and Lowell Streets NW.
Emery.—Lincoln Road and Prospect Street NE.
Fairbrother.—Tenth and E Streets SW.
Fillmore.—Thirty-fifth and R Streets NW.
Hayes.—Fifth and K Streets NE.
Henry Polk.—Seventh and P Streets NW.
Jefferson.—Sixth and D Streets SW.
Johnson.—Hiatt Place and Lamont Street NW.
Kenilworth.—Kenilworth, D. C.
Ketcham.—Fifteenth and U Streets SE.
Ludlow.—Sixth and G Streets NE.
Orr.—Twenty-second and Prout Streets SE.
Peabody.—Fifth and C Streets NE.
Raymond.—Tenth Street and Spring Road NW.
Tenley.—Wisconsin Avenue and Yoma Street NW.
Threlkeld.—Thirty-sixth and Prospect Streets NW.
Wallach.—Seventh and D Streets SE.
Weightman.—Twenty-third and M Streets N.W.
Wheatley.—Twelfth and N Streets NE.

COLORED

Briggs.—Twenty-second Street and Virginia Avenue NW.
Bruce.—Kenyon Street NW., between Georgia and Sherman Avenues.
Burrville.—Division Avenue and Hayes Street NE.
Cleveland.—Eighth and T Streets NW.
Cook.—North Capitol and P Streets.
Crummell.—Gallaudet Avenue and Fourteenth Street NE.
Danwood.—Whittingham Street and Lane Place NE.
Giddings.—Third and G Streets SE.
Lovejoy.—Twelfth and D Streets NE.
Magruder.—Seventeenth and M Streets NW.
Smothers.—Forty-second Street and Benning Road NE.

SCHOOL YARDS OPEN DAILY, AFTER SCHOOL HOURS, DURING THE FALL AND SPRING TERMS

WHITE

Benning.—Anacostia Road, between Bennings and Foote Streets NE.
Bowen.—Third and K Streets SW.
Cooke.—Seventeenth and Euclid Streets NW.
Eaton.—Thirty-fourth and Lowell Streets NW.
Hayes.—Fifth and K Streets NE.
Tenley.—Wisconsin Avenue and Yoma Street NW.
Wheatley.—Twelfth and N Streets NE.
Corcoran.—Twenty-eighth and M Streets NW.

COLORED

Briggs.—Twenty-second Street and Virginia Avenue NW.
Cook.—North Capitol and P Streets.
Giddings.—Third and G Streets SE.
Magruder.—Seventeenth and M Streets NW.

MUNICIPAL PLAYGROUNDS—SUMMER SCHEDULE

MAUDE N. PARKER, Director of Girls' Activities

WOMEN DIRECTORS' PROGRAM

- 9.00- 9.30 Apparatus work, or free and running games.
 9.30-10.00 Organized games.
 10.00-10.30 Stories.
 10.00-11.00 Wading pool (girls).
 10.30-11.00 Ring games.
 11.00-12.00 Kindergarten.
 11.00-12.00 Wading pool (boys).
 12.00- 1.00 Free play.
 1.00- 1.30 Stories and quiet games.
 Attend to giving out material, disciplining ground, etc.
 1.30- 3.00 Basketry or construction work.
 Athletic button test for boys.
 3.00- 4.00 Athletic button test for girls.
 Games for boys.
 Wading pool (girls).
 4.00- 5.00 Wading pool (boys).
 4.00- 6.00 Industrial work, sewing, knitting, crocheting, etc.
 6.00- 6.30 Free play (time to get ground in order for evening).
 6.30- 7.00 Ring games, folk dances, music.
 Make report of day's work.

MUNICIPAL PLAYGROUNDS—SUMMER SCHEDULE

RICHARD S. TENNYSON, Director of Boys' Activities

MEN DIRECTORS' PROGRAM

- 9.00- 9.45 Baseball.
 9.45-11.00 Button test.
 11.00-12.30 Field and track sports (train for interplayground meet).
 1.00- 2.00 Baseball.
 2.00- 3.00 Apparatus work (stunts, chinning, etc.).
 3.00- 4.00 Button-test practice (do not give tests at this time. Let the boys practice the various tests).
 4.00- 4.30 Quoits (conduct tournaments for boys in different weight and age classes).

LATE SHIFT

- 1.00- 2.00 Baseball.
 2.00- 3.30 Button-test practice.
 3.30- 5.00 Field and track sports (train for interplayground meet).
 5.00- 6.00 Apparatus work, quoits.
 6.00- 7.00 Organized baseball game with two teams picked from your ground.
 Make report of day's work.

SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS—SUMMER SCHEDULE

WOMEN DIRECTORS' PROGRAM

- 10.00-10.30 Organized games, or free and running games.
 10.30-11.00 Stories.
 11.00-11.15 Ring games.
 11.15-12.00 Kindergarten.
 12.00- 1.00 Free play (lunch time).
 1.00- 2.00 Athletic button test.
 2.00- 2.30 Stories and quiet games.
 2.30- 3.00 Paddle tennis, croquet, quoits, bean-bag games.
 3.00- 5.00 Industrial work (sewing, embroidering, knitting, crocheting).
 5.00- 5.45 Minor sports, tether, new games, apparatus.
 5.45- 6.00 Free play.
 Make report of day's work.

SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS—SUMMER SCHEDULE

MEN DIRECTORS' PROGRAM

- 10.00-11.30 Baseball (volley ball where baseball is not allowed).
 11.00-11.30 Athletic button test.
 11.30- 1.00 Field and track events.
 1.00- 2.00 Free play (lunch time).
 2.00- 3.00 Baseball.
 3.00- 3.30 Quits.
 3.30- 4.30 Contests of various kinds (mass play, volley ball, stunts).
 4.30- 6.00 Competitive baseball games (organize two teams and play seven innings).
 Make report of day's work.

BOYS' ACTIVITIES

Although the special events conducted for boys and young men on playgrounds and athletic fields are listed below, they do not entirely cover the playground year for the male Washingtonian for the reason that many other intensely interesting sports are enjoyed that do not come under the head of special features.

There are many District lads who have not engaged in any of the tournaments who are regular attendants on the playgrounds and are actively engaged in enjoying themselves for many hours a day. Each to his own liking, so long as his choice of sport is not injurious, is the playground slogan.

There are many ardent quoit pitchers on every playground, and horseshoe pitching has lost none of its popularity for the boys and their dads who spend the evening hours in large numbers on the play fields. Apparatus work is another favorite among the older frequenters of playgrounds.

Tin-can golf, the Washington game, is still the favorite diversion for many, while croquet holds the distinction of being the leading sport on at least one playground. Tether has its devotees, as has volley ball, speed ball, mass play games, and numerous other forms of activity, many of which are originated by the boys or directors.

INTERPLAYGROUND TRACK MEET

When the summer program began July 1 every playground in the city was alive with boys preparing for the annual interplayground field and track meet. A part of each day's program was devoted to practicing the various events listed for the championship games.

Dual and triangular meets were held between teams in different sections, and prior to the finals it is estimated that more than 100 of these preliminary events were held. Nearly 15,000 boys vied for places on the teams.

The finals were held on Plaza playgrounds on August 26 and exceeded anything of its kind ever held on playgrounds or in the District of Columbia. Exactly 1,950 youthful athletes competed for honors on 40 teams. Plaza playground won the meet by a one-fourth point margin, barely nosing out Garfield.

The points were divided between 16 playgrounds, as follows: Plaza, 29¼; Garfield, 29; Tenley, 26; Peabody, 18¼; Georgetown, 17; Johnson, 12; Wheatley, 9; Bloomingdale, 8; Henry, 7; Rosedale, 6; Brookland, 6; Columbia Road, 3¼; Corcoran, 2¼; Mitchell Park, 2; Iowa Avenue, 1; Montrose Park, 1.

The Washington Post made its second annual gift of medals to the first, second, and third boy in each event, and the winning team was again rewarded with the Washington Post cup. Nearly 100 Post medals were distributed to the more fortunate youngsters immediately after the meet by the supervisor of playgrounds.

COLORED INTERPLAYGROUND TRACK MEET

The same procedure was followed in planning the colored inter-playground field and track meet as for the white. Dual and triangular meets were held after each of the grounds selected a team in eliminations. The Washington Post again offered medals to the individual place winners and a cup to the team champions.

The finals were held on August 12, and for the third consecutive year Logan playground triumphed with 38 points. Willow Tree was second with 26 and Cardoza was third with 17 points.

More than 800 boys took part in the meet, authoritatively stated by one critic to be the largest meet ever held in the United States for colored boys.

BOYS' TENNIS

Special instructions in tennis were given boys frequenting playgrounds during the summer, and as a consequence many more took part in the playground tournaments than ever before. Twenty playgrounds held eliminations and sent champions to the finals. More than 1,100 took part in the eliminations.

In the finals the city was divided into eastern and western sections, 10 champions in each, and after interesting matches 9 boys in each section were eliminated and the survivors pitted for city honors. Twin Oaks and Garfield representatives were western and eastern finalists, respectively, and the Garfield youngster won the city championship.

COLORED TENNIS

The colored playground tennis tournament for boys is usually one of the most attractive features of the year on colored playgrounds, and the year of the present reporting was no exception. Over 300 boys entered the preliminary matches and 7 playground champions were named.

Instead of dividing the city in sections, as in the white tournament, the 7 colored champions were permitted to play in one elimination series, and after a most interesting tourney the Howard playground representative was declared the champion.

INTERPOOL SWIMMING MEET

After eastern and western teams had been selected in the Rosedale and Georgetown swimming pools, respectively, through elimination meets in which a total of 300 natators took part, the city championship event was held in the Rosedale pool August 17.

Georgetown turned the tables on Rosedale and won the trophy that the eastern representatives had held for a year by virtue of its victory in 1926. The point totals were Georgetown, 69; Rosedale, 51.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SOCCER

A record-breaking number of soccer teams took part in the annual grade-school soccer series in the fall. With championship tourneys held for both junior and senior teams interest in the playground school activities was increased to the extent that nearly 3,500 boys played on the 152 teams.

The city was divided into seven divisions for the championship preliminaries and the champions of each section were pitted for city championship play. This procedure was followed for both junior and senior divisions and Park View School captured the senior championship and Peabody won the first junior city title.

INTERPLAYGROUND SOCCER

Continuing on its policy of introducing soccer in Washington as a major sport, the playground department organized and conducted its first senior interplayground soccer league. When the circuit was in the formative process a group of young men of Marlboro, Md., requested permission to compete, and in view of the fact that these individuals were without competition unless they were accepted in the District league their request was granted.

Eight District playgrounds entered teams, and, after a schedule of games that proved of unusual interest to the participants and hundreds of spectators who viewed the matches, played on Saturday afternoon, the Marlboro team was victorious. The District teams were composed entirely of former elementary school playground soccerists.

Four other near-by Maryland towns have requested permission to play in Washington next fall, and it is planned to form a league for these young men who otherwise would be unable to play. The Maryland group will furnish their own playing material, as Marlboro did last season.

BOYS' INTERPLAYGROUND BASKET BALL

The annual interplayground basket-ball tourney for boys was won by the team representing Thomson playground. Twenty teams and about 135 boys took part in the series, which ran from October 1 until the middle of December. The 20 teams were divided into four sections and the champions of the five-team leagues met in the finals for the coveted city title.

ELEMENTARY-SCHOOL BASEBALL

The most intensive athletic program ever carried out by the playground department in the elementary schools was the record made during the past spring. All told 514 baseball teams were organized by the playground directors. Of these about 275 were interclass teams, a comparatively new project but one that the playgrounds expect to foster to an even higher degree in the future.

Both junior and senior division championships were played in seven sections of the city and the champions of each sections met for

the junior and senior titles, respectively. Fillmore School won the junior honors and Park View School took the senior championship.

Interclass leagues were organized in Cooke, Logan, Mott, Douglas, E. V. Brown, Park View, Stuart Junior High, Montgomery, and Corcoran Schools for both junior and senior teams. Several of the schools put 20 or more teams on the field, as E. V. Brown, which was represented by 22 class teams, and Park View, which had 27.

ELEMENTARY-SCHOOL TRACK

Elementary-school youngsters caught the Olympic bug early and before the baseball schedules were well under way they were clamoring for field and track sports. The directors visited the schools and informed the youngsters that the division meets would start on May 14 and the finals would be held on May 26.

Record-breaking performances were in order in the six division meets, in which nearly 2,000 boys took part, and in the finals 600 had survived the sectional games and competed for the city championship. E. V. Brown School won both the senior and junior city championships. The champions scored 24 points in the senior games, just 2 more than the runner-up, Park View, and then amassed 15 in the junior meet, topping the second place, Wheatley team, by 3 points.

COLORS SWIMMING MEET

A most successful meet for colored swimmers was held in the Howard pool late in August, and it was gratifying to the guards and attendants to see practically every section of the city represented. Events for both boys and girls were held and suitable prizes presented by the Washington Tribune.

GIRLS' ATHLETICS

Girls of Washington are entering sports in larger numbers each year, as shown by the statistics of the playground department, more than 11,000 having taken part in organized activities during the past year. The department endeavors to work out a sane and beneficial program that will develop the girls both physically and morally and give them a wholesome good time. The health of the individual is the first thing considered, and at no time is she allowed to sacrifice that for the benefit of the team she might be playing on. To perfect the girl in every way is the aim of the playgrounds, and thus help prepare her for future times, to meet the defeats of life as well as the victories. In no way is this trait of character developed along finer and stronger lines than in the everyday playground games. Constant supervision on the part of the director is necessary to obtain these results.

In order to show to some extent the interest of the girls of the city in various sports and what is being done to improve them physically an approximate division follows: 3,500 entered the field and track events on all playgrounds last summer, with 800 of these taking part in the city finals; 1,240 girls played on basket-ball teams this fall; over 500 were in the tennis tournaments; 4,000 players participated in the elementary-school schlag-ball series and 1,020 played on dodge-

ball teams in the graded leagues conducted by the playgrounds; 300 took part in swimming meets; and 960 girls passed the required athletic efficiency tests.

Other games find their way into the girls' daily program besides the ones mentioned; for instance, volley ball, newcomb, and numerous ones of the low-organized type are extremely popular and are frequently conducted in intramural series. Quoit matches and tin-can golf tourneys are also held.

TENNIS

More than 500 girls took part in tennis tournaments conducted during the month of July, the winners representing their respective grounds in the city tourney held the first week in August. Both singles and doubles were played, the latter being run off in round-robin fashion, with the various teams divided into sections.

Garfield and Mitchell Park were paired against each other in the single finals and Twin Oaks and Garfield in the doubles. Garfield won both titles and was presented with the playground medals. The runners-up were also rewarded.

FIELD AND TRACK EVENTS

The fourth annual interplayground field and track meet for girls was held on September 1 on Plaza playground, with 800 girls vying for city honors. It was the largest field day of its kind in the history of Washington playgrounds, and the representatives had been picked from a field of some 3,500 girls who had participated in preliminary meets prior to the city affair.

Rosedale captured the most number of points and was awarded the Washington Post trophy. Gold, silver, and bronze medals, also given by the same paper, were presented to girls who were first, second, and third in each event.

Point scores were as follows: Rosedale, 30; Takoma, 16; Georgetown, 14; Phillips, 11; Garfield, 9; New York Avenue, 9; Henry-Polk, 6; Hoover, 5; Plaza, 5; Corcoran, 5; Bloomingdale, 5; Iowa, 4; Ludlow, 4; Happy Hollow, 3; Virginia Avenue, 3; Weightman, 3; Montrose, 3; Arthur, 3; Twin Oaks, 3; Thomson, 1; Brookland, 1; Wheatley, 1.

SWIMMING

Swimming classes were held in the pools during the summer months, with beginners' and swimmers' tests given each week. Life-saving courses were conducted, and many girls passed the Red Cross life-saving test.

A novelty day was staged in each pool during July, with numerous comedy features, and in August the swimming meets were held. The girls of the western section of the city competed in the Georgetown pool and those of the eastern in the Rosedale pool, the winners meeting in an interpool swim at Rosedale August 17. Georgetown won the highest total of points, 47, against 43 for Rosedale, and gained the first leg on the playground cup.

INDUSTRIAL WORK

During the last week in August and the first part of September each playground had an industrial exhibit showing what the child had accomplished during the warm hours of the afternoon. Basket weaving is taught on the municipal grounds and sewing and other forms of handwork on both municipal and school playgrounds. Basketry classes are held from 1.30 to 3 p. m. and sewing from 4 to 6 o'clock.

WADING POOLS

One of the most popular features of the playgrounds is the wading pool, and it is hoped in the future that each ground will be provided with one. A schedule of hours is followed and different periods are arranged for girls and boys. The water is changed between the morning and afternoon sessions and the pool is carefully cleaned twice a day.

The five wading pools now in operation are used daily by more than 1,500 children.

GIRLS' BASKET BALL

The annual interplayground basket-ball league was divided into four sections and the winner of each was eligible to compete in the finals for the District championship. Georgetown, Bloomingdale, Garfield, and Park View girls won their respective section titles.

The final matches brought out some of the best competition of the year and the Georgetown playground six won the coveted title. The four winning teams were banqueted at the Georgetown playground as guests of the victorious team. The supervisor of playgrounds presented silver basket balls to members of the winning team during the banquet.

Twenty teams were entered in the league with 300 girls playing.

In the elementary school series there were six divisions in which 940 girls played. The following schools won in their sections: Langdon in the Bloomingdale, Curtis-Hyde in the Georgetown, Monroe in the Columbia Heights, Pierce in the Rosedale, Buchanan in the Virginia Avenue, Gales in the Plaza.

DODGE BALL

Dodge ball is a most popular game with both large and small, and during the fall months leagues are formed on the playgrounds from the schools within the vicinity. There were 68 teams and 1,020 players in these organized games last year.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SCHLAG BALL

The most active spring program ever enjoyed by the elementary schoolgirls was launched by the playground department during the past year. In addition to the usual division games schlag-ball leagues were organized in the Park View, E. V. Brown, H. D. Cooke, Monroe, Burroughs, Birney, Magruder, John Cook, Douglass-Twining, Logan, Mott, and Cardoza Schools. The seventh and eighth grades were

grouped in a senior interclass series and the fifth and sixth grades in a junior tourney.

The interclass games had a most beneficial effect on the annual division leagues. The girls were more adept at the game, and as a result the matches were more closely contested. The division winners were Bloomingdale, Langdon, Columbia Heights, Park View, Garfield, Van Ness, Georgetown, Addison Plaza, Arthur, Rosedale, Bennings, Virginia Avenue, Brent.

As the fifth and sixth grade teams were grouped and termed juniors in the interclass games, so were they in a schlag tournament conducted this spring between the schools in their vicinity. Each of the divisions named a junior champion, following the same procedure as in the senior league. The junior winners were Plaza, Peabody, Georgetown, Fillmore, Virginia Avenue, Buchanan, Bloomingdale, Gage, Columbia Heights, Park View, Rosedale, Bennings.

There were 38 different leagues in the entire series, with over 4,000 girls taking part in the games.

GIRL'S ACTIVITIES ON COLORED PLAYGROUNDS

More colored girls took advantage of the healthful recreation on playgrounds during the past year than ever before, and as a natural sequence a greater variety of activities were promoted than in previous years. The daily program consisted of athletics, games, stories, industrial work, kindergarten, singing games, folk dances, efficiency tests, and track meets.

Last summer the first interplayground field and track meet was held for colored girls at Cardoza playground, and after a complete program of events had been run off, Cardoza, the oldest colored playground in the city, won the meet. More than 400 girls competed.

At the close of the summer, handwork (sewing and basketry) was exhibited by the children on all the grounds; parents and friends were invited to the exhibit. In this way the directors and parents formed closer relationships, the aim of the playground worker at all times.

GIRLS' TENNIS ON COLORED PLAYGROUNDS

Every colored playground in the city held preliminary tennis tournaments and had representatives in the finals. The winners were grouped in sections and Willow Tree and Rose Park survived the preliminary championship matches. In the finals the Willow Tree representatives won the city title by defeating the Rose Park girls in straight sets. Medals were presented the winners and the runner-ups.

COLORED GIRLS IN SCHLAG BALL

By organizing class teams in many of the schools in the vicinity of colored playgrounds more girls had an opportunity to enter the spring games than ever before and the new system filled a genuine need. Both senior and junior schlag-ball leagues were formed in the following schools: Mott, Birney, Magruder, Cook, Douglass-Twining, Logan, and Cardoza.

The regular division games were conducted on Howard and Rose Park playgrounds, with Mott winning the cup in the former and Phillips in the latter.

FALL GAME SERIES FOR GIRLS ON COLORED PLAYGROUNDS

Basket ball from the elementary schools was conducted on only one colored playground last fall, as most of the schools in the vicinity of the grounds did not have an eighth grade. Dodge ball was substituted and the following schools were declared winners in their divisions: Wormley, in the Rose Park; Logan, in the Logan; New Bell, in the Cardoza. The basket-ball series, which was played on Howard, was won by Mott.

Interclass games in dodge ball were played on the Barry Farms playground by girls from Birney School and on the Payne playground by girls from the Payne School.

SPECIAL FEATURES

Athletics are not the only diversion furnished the girls on Washington playgrounds. Seasonable programs are arranged on all the play fields such as Valentine parties, Decoration Day exercises, Flag Day exercises, Fourth of July celebrations, Halloween and Christmas parties, and May Day festivals. Two of the most popular events of the year are the doll and baby shows.

One baby show, at the Georgetown playgrounds, had 84 babies entered, and here the youngsters were weighed and measured before the final selections were made in each class. Doll shows often bring out 60 to 70 dolls of every description.

Under the auspices of the Women's City Club, a tree was planted by Mrs. William H. Taft during the May Day ceremonies at the Park View playground. The children sang a planting song, led by Doctor Barnes, director of music in the public schools. An address was made by Mrs. J. Garfield Riley, president of the club, responded to by Commissioner Taliaferro, who accepted the tree for the District.

During July and August playground health stations were opened at five municipal playgrounds. These stations were conducted by a staff of the child-health education department of the Tuberculosis Association. The services were extended to all children under 16 years of age. All playground athletes were given an opportunity to be weighed, measured, and checked on their physical efficiency each week during that time. Special programs were prescribed for children found underweight and overweight, and every effort was made by the playground director to cooperate with the health officials and to have their instructions carried out. These stations were conducted under the general supervision of Miss Margaret Craig, on Hoover, Willow Tree, Virginia Avenue, Rosedale, and Georgetown playgrounds.

On child-health day, May 1, this feature was stressed throughout the playground system.

Washington's first totem pole was raised on February 18 at the Plaza playground on occasion of the eighteenth anniversary of the birth of the Boy Scout movement in America. The carving on the pole was the work of James E. Steere—the only known “pale face” totem carver in America. The carving represented in Indian symbolism the development of the Boy Scout movement in the United States. The pole was presented to the playgrounds by Mr. Linn C. Drake, Boy Scout executive of Washington, with much ceremony, every scout troop in Washington participating in the exercises. The totem was accepted for the playground department by Commissioner Taliaferro, who in turn presented it to the supervisor of playgrounds, and the playground children who were gathered from every quarter of the city to take part in this unique ceremony.

A goal throwing tournament for girls was held during the month of February in connection with the national affair, but the winners of the playground department did not compete against other organizations, but had their own finals. Medals were presented the two highest scorers by the Washington Post, under whose auspices the city-wide tourney was conducted.

REPAIR AND CONSTRUCTION

The number of men carried on the labor roll has been greatly reduced; the surfacing, grading, and drainage of the grounds has been done by the District of Columbia repair shop under the direction of the inspector of playgrounds.

Baseball diamonds, basket-ball courts, tennis courts, and soccer fields have been laid out and new pieces of apparatus installed. All apparatus has been kept in repair and periodically inspected as to safety. Care is taken to detect any defective part before a break occurs. Worn basket balls, footballs, volley balls, soccer balls, and baseballs are mended and used again on the grounds.

MUNICIPAL BATHING POOLS

Under the direction of F. J. Brunner, superintendent, the municipal bathing pools at Seventeenth and B Streets SW. were opened June 1 and closed September 17. The pools were open 12 hours daily, except Sundays, and the same schedule that has been used for several years past was used again, as follows: 6 a. m. to 9 a. m., mixed swimming; from 9 a. m. to 3.30 p. m., children only; 4 p. m. to 6 p. m., adults only; on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays the pools were used by women and girls, and on alternate days by the men and boys. Free swimming classes for children each half hour from 9.30 a. m. to 3.30 p. m. In addition to elementary swimming there were classes in life-saving. The monthly attendance shows that July is the most popular month at the pool. July, 1927, was a record breaker, with 1,442 boys and 1,558 girls in attendance in the classes and 45,468 total attendance for the month. During the season the attendance in classes was 6,000. The total number of those availing themselves of the free privileges of the pools during the season was 91,796.

PLAYGROUND SWIMMING POOLS

Pools are located on the following playgrounds: Georgetown, at Thirty-third and Volta Place; Rosedale, at Seventeenth and Kramer Streets NE.; and Howard, at Fifth and W Streets NW. Each pool will accommodate 100 bathers at a time. The pools are of the open-air type, 28 feet wide and 75 feet long, with a sloping depth of $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet to $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet. Each pool holds 96,000 gallons of water, which is filtered, and the pools are constructed in such a way that an overflow of water is always going off while the pools are in use. Every night the pools are emptied and the sides and floors scrubbed and disinfected according to instructions issued by the health department.

These pools were opened for the summer on June 23 and closed for the season on September 17. Georgetown and Rosedale pools were open from 9 a. m. until 6 p. m. daily; Georgetown for men and boys on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and for women and girls on alternate days, with an attendance of 23,924. Rosedale pool was open for men and boys on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, and for women and girls on alternate days, with an attendance of 35,761. Howard pool for colored ran on a schedule similar to that at Rosedale, except that the pool was open 12 hours each day, from 6 a. m. until 9 p. m., mixed swimming for adults, with an attendance of 40,278. At Howard pool a woman was employed to check valuables, to keep an attendance record, and to act as matron. Attendance at the three pools for the season was 99,963.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In activities and interest this has been one of the most successful years in playground work in the District.

Since the park playgrounds are far more attractive to the child than any other, we believe that every park should have a playground. This has become a universal thought, and in most cities one may find play fields in every large park. For a time the idea was opposed, many being of the opinion that active sports and games should not be played in the parks, but to-day 90 per cent of the park executives favor the plan.

We believe that the recreation department should be interested in neighborhood festivals rather than in city-wide celebrations.

Since play is almost the only method of physical development for city children, we must provide for it if we would have the children strong and law-abiding.

Playgrounds should be within walking distance of every girl and boy.

In the opening of new subdivisions in the city one-tenth of the ground, exclusive of streets, we believe, should be set aside for playgrounds.

It is found that little children will not go more than a fourth of a mile to a playground, while children from 8 to 10 years will go a half mile; older children, of course, go much farther to play.

Additional athletic fields should be provided in the vicinity of small playgrounds.

I would emphasize the need of improving many of the municipal playgrounds by enlarging the area and increasing the facilities for active recreation until neighborhood play fields throughout the city provide facilities for swimming, wading, soccer, baseball, tennis, basket ball, and track.

All play fields should be landscaped and planted and so made more comfortable and attractive.

The playgrounds plan to provide, as much as possible, recreational advantages for the group of boys and girls just over school age who are at work, for the less fortunate group who are financially unable to attend high school or through indifference have dropped out of the upper grades, making up to them as far as possible the recreational and social advantages enjoyed by the more fortunate group, to educate through a right use of leisure time and so promote health and happiness.

Field houses should be constructed that are attractive, the buildings should be of such size as to provide generous accommodations, office for the director, and one or more indoor recreation rooms to be used in extremely hot, cold, or stormy weather. In the best type of field houses shower baths, dressing rooms, and lockers are included. At the present, with the exception of Georgetown and Rosedale, the shelters on the playgrounds of the District are not attractive nor comfortable. The lodges constructed by the Federal Government on Garfield and Willow Tree are pleasing in appearance and generally satisfactory, but they should have a larger play room for indoor use.

Every playground should be provided with a wading pool and the larger grounds with a swimming pool, to be free to the children of the District.

Public-spirited citizens might be reminded that there is no gift that can be made to the city of greater use and enjoyment, with more lasting honor to the donor, than the gift of land for a public playground.

Branch libraries should be opened on the major playgrounds.

I take pleasure in presenting this report and in calling especial attention to the corps of workers in this department who are faithful, efficient, and happy, I believe, in their chosen work. Many of them surely are enthusiastically interested in all that helps children and young people to be happy and well behaved in their sports and games. I am grateful to all who have aided in the advancement of our work. In closing I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to the daily press of the city for having contributed to the pleasure of the children and the success of the year by so generously giving space to our activities, bringing before the public the achievements of the playgrounds.

Respectfully submitted.

SUSIE ROOT RHODES,
Supervisor of Playgrounds.



